

REMARKS

Claims 1-32, 34, 36-40, 43-46, 49-52, 55-58, and 61-64 have been canceled. Such cancellation is without prejudice on the merits to further prosecution of these claims in one or more continuing applications.

Claims 33, 35, 41, 42, 47, 48, 53, 54, 59, 60, and 65 have been amended herein. Verbatim support for the recitation of "melt-bondable" can be found in the specification at page 6, line 15. The recitation of the fibers being arranged in a "graded-density structure" is found at page 5, line 22 of the specification. The list of specific charge treatments in addition to polyamide-epichlorohydrin is found in the specification at page 10, lines 9-11. The density range for the finished product of from about 0.173 g/cm³ to about 0.276 g/cm³ can be found in the specification at page 13, lines 17-18, and at page 15, line 14. No new matter is added. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 33, 35, 37, 39-43, 45-49, 51-55, 57-61, and 63-65 Under §103(a) Over Dahringer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,107) in View of Kahlbaugh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,364,456):

As applied to Claims 37, 39, 40, 45, 46, 49, 51, 52, 55, 57, 58, 61, 63, and 64, this rejection has been rendered moot by cancellation of the claims.

As applied to Claims 33, 35, 41, 47, 48, 53, 54, 59, 60, and 65, this rejection is believed to have been overcome by appropriate amendment to the claims.

Specifically, independent Claims 33, 41, 47, 53, and 59 all now recite charge treatments, such as polyamide-epichlorohydrin, that are not recited in the combined teachings of Dahringer et al., Kahlbaugh et al., and Bond et al. Likewise, these claims now recite that the media has a density of from about 0.173 g/cm³ to 0.276 g/cm³.

Applicants therefore submit that this rejection has been overcome. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 38 and 44 Under §103(a) Over Dahringer et al., in View of Kahlbaugh et al., and Further in View of Bond et al., U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0,168,912:

This rejection has been rendered moot by cancellation of the claims.

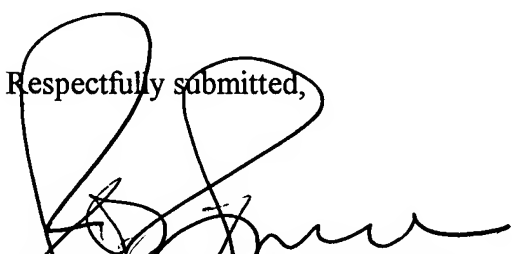
Rejection of Claims 50, 56, and 62 Under §103(a) Over Dahringer et al., Kahlbaugh et al., and Bond et al.:

This rejection has been rendered moot by cancellation of the claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments relating to this application to deposit account number 18-2055.

Respectfully submitted,


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